

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above application in view of the above amendments and the below remarks is requested.

With the above amendments, claim 1 now contains limitations from claims 3 and 4; claim 5 now contains limitations of original claims 1 and 3; claim 6 now contains limitations from original claim 1; claims 14 and 18 now depend from claim 1 as amended. In addition, claims 2 to 4, 7 to 13, 16, and 17 are now cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 8, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujimori et al (US 6207343) in view of Doi et al (US 2002/0001769). This rejection is traversed. In addition, the Patent Office indicated that claims 4 to 6, 11, 13 to 15, and 18 to 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form with the limitations of any intervening claims.

With the above amendments, applicants submit that the above rejection has been traversed and withdrawal thereof is requested.

With the above amendment, applicants added an additional independent claim. The fee for the additional independent claim was already charged to Deposit Account 50-3309 based on their previously submitted Form SB0017.

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Applicants submit that the concerns of the Patent Office have been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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